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MAY 7 2013

5-8-1304

DOCKET # 2013-59-E

THIS LETTER IS IN REFERENCE TO DOCKET # 2013-59-E. I URGE YOU TO DENY DUKE POWERS REQUEST FOR A RATE INCREASE. IN THE PAST YEARS YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM AN INCREASE, TIME AND THE ECONOMY HAS CHANGED. THEY HAVE GAINED 50,000 NEW CUSTOMERS WITH PROGRESS ENERGY. THEY GAVE AWAY 10 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE DEMOCRAT CONVENTION IN CHARLOTTE AND 40 MILLION DOLLAR PAYOUT TO PROGRESS C.E.O.. MY QUESTION IS, HOW CAN DUKE JUSTIFY THE NEED OF REVENUE FROM THEIR CUSTOMERS WITH THIS TYPE OF NEGLIGENCE IN THEIR SPENDING. ALSO, REMEMBER. THE INVESTMENTS THEY ARE MAKING, HAS NOTHING TO DO IN SOUTH CAROLINA. WE WILL BE PAYING FOR OUT OF STATE PROBLEMS.

THANK YOU

WM. W. NEWS

CLOVER SC.

REPUBLICAN TAXPAYER
NOT A DEMOCRAT DUKE!

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2013

PSC SC
MAIL/DMS

Proposed utility increase would hammer poor, cost taxpayers

YORK — Just when anybody who works for a living or pays taxes thought that nobody else could try to stick another hand in a pocket or purse that is almost empty, here comes Duke Energy.

Last week, Duke announced it was asking South Carolina's Public Service Commission to allow the company that had income of \$1.7 billion in 2011 to raise rates more than 16 percent on residential customers and 14 percent on commercial customers. Everybody knows \$1.7 billion just doesn't

go as far as it used to. For the York school district — where officials announced last week they would be cutting 22 positions next school year to keep the doors open — that means an electricity bill that's already more than \$1 million a year will go up as much as \$100,000 per year.



Andrew Dys
Columnist

Want to weigh in?

To follow and comment on the S.C. Public Services Commission Duke Energy rate increase request, go to the PSC website — dms.psc.sc.gov — and use item #2013-59-E, or call 803-896-5100.

Instead of paying teachers, York will have to use taxpayers' hard-earned money to heat the school and keep the lights on.

Every area school district — including Rock Hill, Fort Mill, Clover, Chester and Lancaster — is to some extent a Duke customer and would see rates skyrocket not just this year but forever.

The cost is staggering — millions of dollars over the years.

Chester County schools budget figures show the district has already paid Duke \$834,000 for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, which ends in June. Chester County, one of the poorest in the state, does not have an extra \$150,000 laying around, so they'll likely have to cut something. Lancaster County schools paid Duke

more than \$32,000 last month alone, records show.

Who pays those bills? You do. Taxpayers pay for school lights and heat.

Every industry and employer would see rates jump. Who pays for that? Customers. You.

Duke said last week in a news release it needs the money to pay for investments in power plants, tree-cutting to keep snow and ice from knocking out power, and required security upgrades because of the threat of terrorism and federal regulation.

Duke did not mention in that release that it raised rates by 6 percent last year, too, after asking for a double-digit increase. And before that in some years, Duke raised rates, too, like the city of Rock Hill, which has raised rates at least 10 years running and built a \$32 million operations center.

Duke's executives plead poverty while looking out from the top floors of a skyscraper.

See DYS • 6B



Lisa White of York holds her overdue Duke Energy bill Wednesday while in line at PATH charity to try to get help before her service is disconnected. Duke wants to raise rates 16 percent on residential customers.

ANDREW DYS — adys@heraldonline.com

NASDAQ

▲ 38.01 to 3,378.63

.....
DOW JONES

▲ 142.38 to 14,973.96

BUSINESS

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SOUTH CAROLINA CUSTOMERS WILL BE PAYING FOR THIS - AND A BIG PAY CHECK FOR MR. ROGERS.

Duke Energy 1Q earnings helped by weather, rates

Colder winter in the Carolinas helped boost utility's profits to \$634 million

By Bruce Henderson

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✓ Duke Energy earned \$634 million on \$5.9 billion in revenues in the first quarter as colder winter weather and higher customer rates in the Carolinas boosted profits.

Ten months after its July 2012 merger with Progress Energy, Duke reported earnings of 89 cents a share compared with 66 cents a year earlier. Adjusted for merger costs and other special charges, earnings were \$1.02 a share, 2 cents below Wall Street analysts' expectations and down from \$1.13 a year earlier.

CEO Jim Rogers called the results "consistent with our internal plan" and in line with the company's guidance of \$4.20 to \$4.45 a share for 2013. Duke expects a stronger second half of 2013 as it nets merger savings and new customer rates take effect in the Carolinas and Ohio.

Chief financial officer Lynn Good said the 50,000 new customers Duke has gained across its six-state territory could reflect a

housing rebound. But Rogers added that lingering high unemployment illustrates an overall anemic economic recovery.

Duke says a leap-year effect in 2012 skewed growth comparisons to this year. Adjusted for weather, its volume for the first quarter was down about 0.5 percent in all sectors. Factoring in the additional day in 2012, it was up about 0.5 percent.

✓ Duke's regulated businesses were helped by weather that, in the Carolinas, was 41 percent colder than a year earlier. Higher rates approved in 2012 also lifted profits. Total sales in the Carolinas rose 14 percent.

The N.C. Supreme Court sent Duke Energy Carolinas' most recent rate increase, 7.2 percent granted in early 2012, back to the N.C. Utilities Commission for another look. Rogers said he expects the commission to more fully document the rate hike's impacts on customers, as the court ordered. He does not think Duke's allowed return on equity, or profit margin, of 10.5 percent will shrink.

"We continue to believe that the settle-

ment agreement approved by the Utilities Commission is fair and balanced," he told analysts in a conference call.

Rate increase pending

✓ A rate hike settlement between Duke Energy Progress, which serves eastern North Carolina and Asheville, and consumer advocates is before the commission now. Hearings on Duke Energy Carolinas' latest rate hikes are set for July.

✓ After a tumultuous 2012, which included two investigations and settlements of the Progress merger, Duke expects to spend the year maximizing savings from the merger and improving the performance of former Progress nuclear plants.

Its new Edwardsport coal-gasification plant in Indiana, which had about \$1 billion in cost overruns, is expected to go into service by late May. The Sutton gas-fired plant near Wilmington will start up by the end of the year.

In October, the Florida Public Service

Commission will begin hearings into Duke's decision to retire the crippled Crystal River nuclear plant. The commission will also review a mediator's recommendation that Duke settle insurance claims over the plant for \$530 million.

✓ Duke will file cost estimates for dismantling the plant with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in November. It has \$600 million in a decommissioning fund, an amount Duke believes will be adequate. Duke told Florida regulators this week that it will lay off or transfer 585 Crystal River workers.

Duke's international division fell 6 cents a share compared with a year earlier. Duke attributed the downturn to lower sales and higher costs of purchased power in Brazil.

Commercial power, or unregulated businesses, fell 3 cents a share on lower earnings from Duke's power plants in the Midwest.

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DONALD NIVENS
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March 2013



My Home Energy Report

DONALD NIVENS's Home Electricity Usage for March 2013

How am I doing?

DUKE TELLS ME TO SAVE MONEY

BUT THEY WANT A RATE INCREASE?

What is this report?

Duke Energy developed this report to help you understand your energy usage and find ways to help you save money and energy. The report compares your home energy efficiency with similar homes.

Why would Duke Energy try to help me save energy?

When customers reduce their energy needs, it reduces the costs to provide energy and the need to build more power plants, which lower bills for you, your community, and Duke Energy.

Tell us what you think of the report at:

www.duke-energy.com/homereportsurvey

Questions?

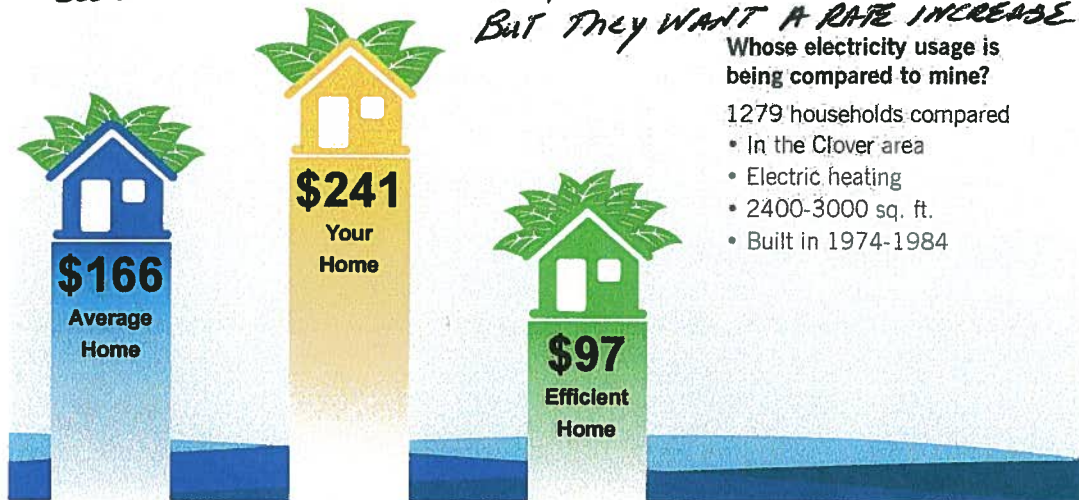
Visit:
www.duke-energy.com/homereport

Email:
HomeReport@duke-energy.com

Call:
888-873-3853
M-F 7AM-7PM ET
SAT 8AM-1PM ET



Check out this video to learn more about your personalized report.



Whose electricity usage is being compared to mine?

1279 households compared

- In the Clover area
- Electric heating
- 2400-3000 sq. ft.
- Built in 1974-1984

You spent \$75 more than the average home. Ready to be better than average? Join the ranks of the efficient. Try one of the tips below.

Tips Based on Your Usage and Home Profile

What can I do to save money and energy?

Plug those drafty sockets!

DONE

Insulate electrical outlets and switch cover plates

Save up to \$11 per year.

Add insulation covers (often called gaskets) to outlets and switches on the exterior walls of your home. Gaps in insulation coverage typically happen at the outlets and switches on exterior walls. Drafts find their way into your home through these gaps. Adding outlet and switch gaskets will reduce your energy usage, and make your home more comfortable by eliminating drafts.

The "clear" choice for windows!

DONE

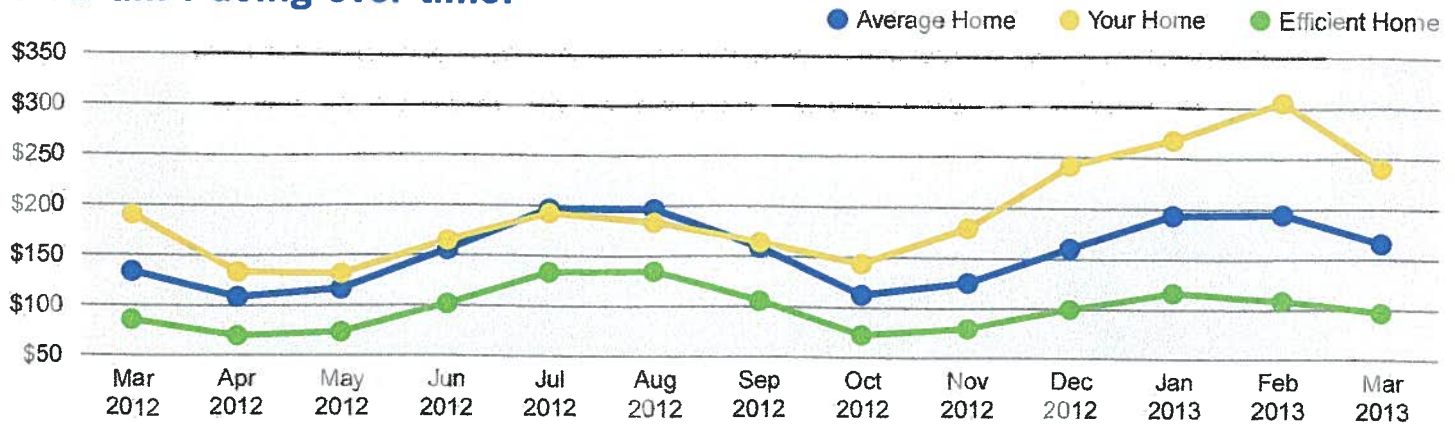
Replace your windows with low-E ENERGY STAR windows

Save up to \$272 per year.

When it's time to replace your windows make sure that you choose efficient, low-E ENERGY STAR windows. Low-E glass has a special coating that helps to keep heat in during the winter, and out during the summer. Efficient windows also have multiple panes of glass that are usually filled with "insulating" gases to help keep your home comfortable.

HEAT PUMPS WORK ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EXTRACTING HEAT OUT OF COLD AIR. THERE IS NO WARM AIR AT 32°F. THEREFORE YOU ARE HEATING WITH ELECTRICITY.

How am I doing over time?



Your usage for this month has **increased** compared to a year ago. You spent **\$1263** more than efficient homes in your area in the last 12 months.

*They didn't know what I had in my home or anything else.
When I called them.*

Take action. Reduce your use.

Performance Tuning, HVAC-style *NEW HEAT PUMP* 18 SEER

Are you getting the most out of your heating and cooling system? The **Smart Saver® Health Check** evaluates your **heat pump or central air conditioner** to ensure that everything is operating at peak efficiency. That means optimal comfort, optimal savings... and peace of mind.

Got your attention? Visit duke-energy.com/MyHER513a to learn more about the program... and our **\$50 incentive**.

Dial 811 to AVOID an Emergency

Everyone knows they can dial 911 in an emergency. Did you know you can dial **811** to *avoid* one?

Got a project that requires some digging? Don't take chances with electrical, gas or water lines. Before you pick up that shovel, pick up the phone! Call the **"Dial Before You Dig"** hotline at **811** or **888-721-7877**. We'll send a technician to mark all utility feeds in your dig zone.

One free call. Isn't your safety worth it?



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